

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COA-02 IO-13 CG-00 FMC-04

OMB-01 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 150828 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4606

INFO USLO PEKING B Y POUCH

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7545

E. O: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, JA, CH

SUBJECT: JAPAN' S ATTITUDE ON JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES
CONCERNING OIL RESOURCES OFF CHINA' S COAST.

SUMMARY: GOJ IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF COM-
PETING JAPANESE AND CHINESE JURISDICTIONS IN EAST
CHINA SEA SHOULD PRC RAISE ISSUE. HOWEVER, GOJ ITSELF
DOES NOT INTEND RAISE ISSUE AT PRESENT AND DOES NOT
EXPECT THAT PRC WILL DO SO EITHER. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON FONOFF CHINA DIV CHIEF KUNIHIO
JUNE 12 TO INQUIRE INFORMALLY ABOUT GOJ' S CURRENT
THINKING ON HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICTING JAPANESE- CHINESE
JURISDICTIONAL CLAIMS IN EAST CHINA SEA AND ON HOW TO
NURTURE PRC WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT FOREIGN INTERESTS TO
ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OFFSHORE OIL RESOURCES FOR EXPORT.

2. KUNIHIO POINTED OUT THAT QUESTION OF COMPETING JURIS-
DICTIONS IN EAST CHINA SEA WAS UNFORTUNATELY BUT
INEVITABLY LINKED TO SENKAKU ISLANDS SOVERIEGNTY ISSUE.
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GOJ POSITION ON SENKAKUS IS, AS IS WELL KNOWN, THAT BECAUSE SOVEREIGNTY OVER SENKAKUS CLEARLY RESTS WITH JAPAN, GOJ IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED EVEN TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH PRC OR OTHER CLAIMANTS. KUNIHIRO SAID THAT ALL INDICATIONS WERE THAT PRC WISHED AVOID SENKAKU ISSUE FOR PRESENT. (IN BRIEF AND RELAXED ASIDE, KUNIHIRO REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS WITH US RE SENKAKUS PRIOR TO OKINAWA REVERSION AND REITERATED BELIEF THAT WISEST COURSE WAS FOR ALL CONCERNED TO CONTINUE AVOIDING PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON SENKAKUS.)

3. THE QUESTION OF COMPETING JURISDICTIONS IN EAST CHINA SEA, WHILE RELATED TO SENKAKU ISSUE, WAS NEVERTHELESS SEPARATE QUESTION, KUNIHIRO SAID. FONOFF WAS AWARE FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT PRC IS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN CONTINENTAL SHELF QUESTIONS. KUNIHIRO MENTIONED REPORT THAT CHOU EN- LAI HAD DISCUSSED TERRITORIAL SEA WITH CANADIAN MIN EXT. AFFS. SHARPE EARLIER THIS YEAR. HE SAID THAT PRC HAD NOT YET RAISED QUESTIONS OF COMPETING JURISDICTIONS IN EAST CHINA SEA WITH GOJ, BUT SHOULD PRC DO SO, GOJ WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. KUNIHIRO BELIEVES THAT PRC HAS NOT YET RAISED JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE BECUASE IT DESIRES AVOID THORNY SENKAKUS QUESTION AND BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT POSITIONS PRC SHOULD TAKE ON THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF RELATED LOS ISSUES.

4. KUNIHIRO SAID THAT SEVERAL FACTORS LAY BEHIND GOJ DECISION NOT TO RAISE JURISDICTIONAL QUESTION WITH PRC AT THIS TIME, NAMELY (A) FONOFF IS SWAMPED WITH WORK CONCERNING NEGOTIATION OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH PRC AND DOES NOT NOW HAVE TIME TO COORDINATE GOJ' S VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE. (B) FONOFF WISHES TO CONCLUDE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING DELINEATION OF JURISDICTIONAL OIL EXPLOITATION AREAS WITH ROK BEFORE INITIATING SIMILAR CONTACTS WITH PRC. (C) JAPANESE OIL INDUSTRY IS NOT PRESSING GOJ TO TAKE UP THIS ISSUE WITH PRC AT PRESENT. WHEN ASKED, KUNIHIRO SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO AWAIT CONCLUSION OF PLANNED LOS CONFERENCE BEFORE INITIATING DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE. HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT

GOJ COULD APPROACH MATTER WITH PRC ON SAME BASIS UPON
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WHICH IT WAS APPROACHING SIMILAR QUESTION WITH ROK, THAT IS, TO SEEK A " DE FACTO " DELINEATION OF RESPECTIVE OIL EXPLOITATION AREAS " WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EITHER SIDE' S POSITION ON BROADER LOS ISSUES".

5. KUNIHIRO INDICATED THAT FONOFF HAD NOT YET GIVEN DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO SEPARATE BUT RELATED QUESTION

OF HOW TO NURTURE PRC' S WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT FOREIGN
INTERESTS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING CHINA' S OWN OFF- SHORE
OIL RESOURCES FOR EXPORT.
SHOESMITH

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